

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 093970
ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 SIG-03
IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 ACDA-12
HA-05 EB-08 DOE-15 SOE-02 AID-05 EA-10 ABF-01
/164 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RNA/NE:AAVACCARO:MP
APPROVED BY INR/RNA:PGRIFFIN
SSM:CWKONTOS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
SSM

-----108813 122305Z /15

P 122056Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION SINAI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
TREASURY DEPARTMENT WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 093970

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093970

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM 541 - APRIL 12, 1978

LONDON FOR KINSOLVING
PARIS FOR NICHOLAS MURPHY

OTHER ADDRESSEES FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION

1. LEBANON. IN THE WORST FIGHTING SINCE FEBRUARY, CLASHES CONTINUED FOR THE THIRD DAY IN BEIRUT'S SOUTHERN SUBURBS. AT LEAST TWELVE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED, INCLUDING ONE SUDANESE SOLDIER, AND MORE THAN FORTY WOUNDED. THE FIGHTING ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY WAS PREDOMINANTLY BETWEEN LEFTIST AND CHRISTIANS. YESTERDAY, THE SYRIANS DEPLOYED AN ARMORED TANK BATTALION TO THE CONFRONTATION LINE AND THE CONFLICT BECAME INCREASINGLY CHRISTIAN AGAINST SYRIAN. THE PALESTINIANS APPARENTLY HAVE NOT BECOME INVOLVED. SO FAR, THE FIGHTING HAS BEEN GENERALLY CONFINED TO THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS. IN MOST OF BEIRUT LIFE WENT ON NORMALLY.

2. TENSIONS HAVE BEEN HIGH IN BEIRUT SINCE THE ISRAELI INVASION OF THE SOUTH FORCED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES TO FLEE TO THE CAPITAL. SOME WERE ACCOMMODATED IN TENT CAMPS PUT UP BY THE GOVERNMENT; MOST PREFERRED TO BREAK INTO AND OCCUPY SOME OF THE CITY'S MANY EMPTY APARTMENT BUILDINGS.

PUBLIC ORDER ERODED AS THE PALESTINIANS AND SOME OF THEIR LEFTIST SUPPORTERS BEGAN TO CARRY OUT HOLDUPS IN THE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 093970

STREETS. THE ATMOSPHERE OF DISORDER PRESUMABLY HELPED SPARK THE CURRENT FIGHTING, ALTHOUGH THE SPECIFIC CAUSE OF THE OUTBREAK IS OBSCURE.

3. THE SYRIANS HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO BRING THE FIGHTING UNDER CONTROL EVENTUALLY, AND THE PALESTINIANS, AT LEAST, ARE MAKING NO EFFORT TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION. THE PLO NEWSPAPER HAS WARNED ALL SIDES AGAINST "FALLING INTO THE TRAP OF INTERNECINE FIGHTING." THE OUTBREAK, NONETHELESS, ILLUSTRATES THE FRAGILITY OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE ISRAELI INTERVENTION IN THE SOUTH HAS STRAINED THE COUNTRY'S UNEASY 18-MONTH-OLD CEASE-FIRE. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. UNIFIL. THE APRIL 10 SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTION 425 WERE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF AND EVEN HOSTILE TOWARD ISRAEL FOR ITS FAILURE TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON. KUWAIT TOOK THE LEAD IN THIS CRITICISM AND ALSO SUGGESTED SC CONSIDERATION OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SANCTIONS AND AN OIL EMBARGO AGAINST ISRAEL. MORE DISTURBING, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE SPECIAL UNGA ON UNIFIL FINANCING LATER THIS MONTH, WERE INDIAN AND NIGERIAN COMMENTS CALLING INTO QUESTION SUPPORT FOR UNIFIL IN THE ABSENCE OF AN EARLY ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. ALSO, SHOULD THE SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES JOIN THE CHINESE IN REFUSING TO PAY THEIR ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNIFIL, THE OPERATION WOULD BE UNDERFUNDED BY ABOUT 25 PERCENT, OR \$17 MILLION OF THE \$68 MILLION BUDGETED FOR SIX MONTHS.

(CONFIDENTIAL)

5. ARAB SUMMIT. THE IDEA OF AN ARAB SUMMIT DESIGNED TO FOSTER ARAB RECONCILIATION CONTINUES TO MEET WITH A LUKE-WARM RECEPTION, DESPITE APPARENT SAUDI BACKING AND JORDANIAN AND SUDANESE EFFORTS TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR IT. ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL RIYAD IS ALSO DISCUSSING A POSSIBLE SUMMIT DURING HIS CURRENT TOUR OF ARAB STATES.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 093970

(CONFIDENTIAL)

6. ME-ROMANIA. ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU CONTINUES TO INVOLVE HIMSELF ACTIVELY IN THE MIDDLE PEACE PROCESS. BOTH BEGIN AND SADAT HAVE GIVEN HIM MUCH CREDIT IN FACILITATING SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM. IN ADDITION, OVER THE PAST YEAR, SEVERAL MIDDLE EASTERN LEADERS HAVE PARADED THROUGH BUCHAREST SEEKING ROMANIAN SUPPORT AND GOOD OFFICES.

7. THE ROLE THAT MIDDLE EASTERNERS ASCRIBE TO ROMANIA GIVES CEAUSESCU A UNIQUE POSITION IN MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS. HIS INFLUENCE HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY HIS SITUATION AS THE ONLY LEADER WHO TALKS TO ALL THE PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PLO. FURTHER, ROMANIA DOES NOT HAVE A LARGE STAKE IN THE AREA AND MANAGES TO STEER A COURSE BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS.

8. THE ROMANIANS, MOREOVER, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DISAGREE WITH THE VARIOUS PARTIES ON KEY ISSUES WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING BILATERAL RELATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO ROMANIA ON APRIL 3-4, DAYAN SAID HE WELCOMED THE CHANCE TO EXPLAIN ISRAEL'S VIEWS. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, DAYAN NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT EXPECTED TO PERSUADE CEAUSESCU TO CHANGE HIS POSITION ON BASIC DIFFERENCES WITH ISRAEL, WHICH DAYAN LISTED AS, "THEIR INTERPRETATION AND OURS ON 242, THE ROMANIAN UNDERSTANDING THAT ISRAEL MUST WITHDRAW FROM ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND THEIR FEELING ABOUT THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A PALESTINIAN STATE."

9. CEAUSESCU, FOR HIS PART, HAS NOT REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC CRITICISM OF ISRAEL. IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH ISRAELI JOURNALISTS, HE CHARACTERIZED THE ISRAELI RESPONSE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 093970

TO THE SADAT INITIATIVE AS "INADEQUATE." HE ALSO URGED THE ISRAELIS "TO HAVE COURAGE AND MAKE THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS FOR PEACE."

10. THE ISRAELIS APPARENTLY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS

CRITICISM FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS:

(A) ROMANIA IS THE ONLY COMMUNIST COUNTRY WITH WHICH ISRAEL MAINTAINS FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

(B) CEAUSESCU IS AN INTERNATIONAL FIGURE IN HIS OWN RIGHT. HE MEETS WITH ARAB, COMMUNIST, AND WESTERN LEADERS, AND IT IS THEREFORE, IMPORTANT TO ISRAEL THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE ISRAELI VIEWPOINT.

(C) ROMANIA AND ISRAEL HAVE SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL TIES. ROMANIA IS A MAJOR PURCHASER AND TRANSHIPPER OF ISRAELI CITRUS.

(D) ISRAEL IS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE WELL-BEING OF THE ROMANIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AND IN ITS FREEDOM TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL.

(E) SINCE ROMANIAN STATEMENTS LACK THE IMPACT OF THOSE OF THE GREAT POWERS, THEY CAN BE MORE READILY TOLERATED.

(F) ROMANIA ALONE AMONG THE EAST EUROPEAN STATES SUPPORT SADAT'S INITIATIVE AND IS STRIVING TO PROMOTE A CONTINUED EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIALOGUE.

11. SIMILARLY, CEAUSESCU HAS MAINTAINED RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS DESPITE MANY DIFFERENCES. ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON, FOR INSTANCE, HE MET WITH PLO LEADER HANI AL-HASSAN. WHILE CRITICIZING THE PLO FOR NOT SUPPORTING THE SADAT INITIATIVE, CEAUSESCU REAFFIRMED
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 093970

THE NECESSITY FOR PLO PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS AS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

12. CEAUSESCU APPEARS DETERMINED TO USE HIS ASSETS IN PROMOTING A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. WHILE HIS INFLUENCE OVER NEGOTIATIONS IS LIMITED, HE CAN PLAY A USEFUL ROLE. IN PARTICULAR, HE DELIVERS STERN MESSAGES TO THE VARIOUS PARTIES WITHOUT OFFENDING THEM. MOREOVER, THE PARTIES SEEM TO REGARD ROMANIANS AS IMPORTANT IN THEMSELVES, REPORTERS OF OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS. AS A RESULT, EVEN IF THE ROMANIANS FAIL TO PERSUADE ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS, BUCHAREST AT LEAST WILL CONTINUE TO BE A SIGNIFICANT CONDUIT FOR AN INDIRECT ARAB-ISRAELI DIALOGUE. (CONFIDENTIAL)

13. ISRAEL. EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORTED THAT THE RIVAL "PEACE" CAMPAIGNS IN ISRAEL HAVE INTENSIFIED THEIR ACTIVITY. THE PRO-BEGIN "MOVEMENT FOR A SECURE PEACE"

CLAIMS TO HAVE AMASSED 132,000 SIGNATURES IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PEACE POLICY AND HAS PLANNED A MASS RALLY FOR APRIL 15. THE RIVAL "PEACE NOW" GROUP, DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE MOMENTUM, HAS PRESSED ITS EFFORTS TO COLLECT SIGNATURES AND HAS SCHEDULED ANOTHER RALLY FOR APRIL 30.

14. ON OTHER MORE PURELY DOMESTIC MATTERS, EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORTS THAT ISRAELI FINANCE MINISTER SIMCHA EHRLICH PERSISTS IN REFUSING CONCESSIONS TO STRIKING GROUPS, WARNING THAT THE FUTURE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY AND POSSIBLY THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF DEPENDS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF LABOR STRUGGLES. WITH THE MERCHANT FLEET AND EL AL AIRLINES STRIKEBOUND AND THE RADIO AND TV SERVICES SILENT, A CABINET COMMITTEE ON CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 07 STATE 093970

WAGES MET FOR THREE DAYS AND AGREED TO OFFER WAGE INCREASES FOR THE PUBLIC SECTOR THAT, IN EFFECT, COMMIT THE

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT THE DEMANDS OF THE HISTADRUT, THE ISRAELI LABOR FEDERATION.

15. THE CABINET COMMITTEE AGREED NOT TO ANNOUNCE FIGURES IMMEDIATELY, CONCURRING WITH EHRLICH'S ARGUMENTS THAT DELAYING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND TOUGH HANDLING OF THE SEAMEN, THE AIRLINE AND RADIO-TV UNIONS WOULD GIVE GREATER CREDIBILITY TO THE VIEW THAT ANY FUTURE SETTLEMENT WITH THE HISTADRUT WOULD BE THE MAXIMUM CONCESSION ATTAINABLE. EMBASSY TEL AVIV BELIEVES THAT THE HISTADRUT, WHILE VEXED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S TOUGH PUBLIC POSTURE, REMAINS PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN RESTRAINING WAGE DEMANDS AND TO DISCOURAGE CIVIL SERVICE STRIKES. (CONFIDENTIAL) VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, MONITORING FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE093970
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: INR/RNA/NE:AAVACCARO:MP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS-2
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780157-1097
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804109/baaafcjy.tel
Line Count: 255
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6f37bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2829968
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTSUM 541 - APRIL 12, 1978
TAGS: PINR, MARR, EG, IS
To: SINAI INFO ABU DHABI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6f37bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014